



# LIBRARY CONNECTIONS

## A LOOK BACK ON THE YEAR OF 2021

*From pastures to pines, connecting you to the world of ideas...*

### STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS (VISION 2020 and Beyond)

- ✓ **Improve county residents’ reading habits:** While much of our daily lives have been upended these past two years, Tuolumne County Library began a slow return to reviving library services. Storytime is held regularly on Thursdays at 10:30 AM. All COVID-19 protocols are observed and families are attending on a regular basis again. Last February, the Children’s Room partnered with CalFire and U. S. Forest Service for the creation of Fire Safety videos for use in the local schools. The beautiful mural in Sonora Main Library was the backdrop for these educational films. The Youth Services Librarian began to revive class visits with first utilizing Zoom with the fourth graders at Sonora Elementary. As the schools resumed their abilities to open their campuses up, the librarian took the library introduction to Jamestown Elementary and Sierra Waldorf. The library was also excited to have local students again come to the library for in-person visits. The summer of 2021 also saw the return of Summer Reading. This very important program encourages young readers to practice their reading skills over the summer to help prevent the “Summer Slide.” After a year of virtual and hybrid learning this was a welcome return to a more normal activity but also a nice respite for parents and guardians with the offering of weekly craft programs based on the theme, *Reading Colors Your World*.
- ✓ **Encourage lifelong learning:** At the end of the calendar year, Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency began its first Early Child Brain Development module, *Baby Layering*, for Sonora Main Library’s Story Time parents. Patty Aguiar did a demonstration that emphasized the importance of providing lots of love and security to our most vulnerable young citizens. We will be continuing this exciting learning opportunity for our local families.
- ✓ **Improve facilities for community engagement:** All branches of Tuolumne County Library are once again open to the public. Sonora Main Library is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM and Saturday from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Groveland Branch is open Tuesdays through Thursdays from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM and Fridays & Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Tuolumne City and Twain Harte Branches are open Tuesday through Thursday from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM and on Friday and Saturday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The local communities are so happy to have their branches back.

| SELECTED PERFORMANCE MEASURES | FY 20/21 | FY 19/20 | FY 18/19 |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Visitors                      | 15,031   | 105,855  | 161,530  |
| Total Circulation             | 54,038   | 90,161   | 142,846  |
| Children attending programs   | 137      | 8,343    | 12,119   |
| Reference questions answered  | 630      | 3,314    | 5,533    |
| Public access computer use    | 854      | 10,681   | 21,092   |
| Items in collection           | 77,508   | 79,456   | 72,085   |
| Card holders                  | 30,899   | 30,533   | 29,456   |

Tuolumne County Library closed all services on March 20, 2020. Reopened with limited hours of operation and staff, November 2020. February 2021 branches were re-opened. Story time returned 1 day/week May 2021.

### BEST PRACTICES

- ✓ **Fundraising/Friends of the Library Activities:** Friends of the Tuolumne County Library are looking forward to the new year and the possibility of returning to holding large book sales, new fundraising events, and other opportunities to support the library. If you haven’t joined the organization, now is an excellent time to support the Tuolumne County Public Library by becoming a member of the Friends of the Tuolumne County Library.



*The joyful heart of county life—Vision 2020*